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**To:** [Joseph McDermott](#)  
**Subject:** update on Am Samoa Tuna issues  
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What I have discovered so far, from NOAA and industry reps -

There are 35 purse seine vessels and 40 long-liners (15 large, 25 smaller) based in American Samoa. Eight (or possibly 11) of the purse seine vessels and a unknown number, but majority of large long-liners are US-built.

The Jones Act has a provision allowing foreign-built fishing vessels to obtain an "endorsement" to fish in US waters around American Samoa, Guam and CNMI, but there is no authority to allow non-US-built vessels to fish in the EEZ around the Pacific Remote Islands.

All of the Rose Atoll Monument is also part of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. The Sanctuary has a regulation in place that prohibits use of seine in the sanctuary, and a tuna industry rep told me this includes purse seines. I will confirm with NOAA, but presuming it is accurate. (b) (5)



Also, tuna fishing in Guam and CNMI is by smaller, rod-and-reel commercial or charter type local vessels that would typically return to report in a few days and sell the catch locally.